

Gingrich penalized for ethics breaches

Nebraska's three congressmen vote for the \$300,000 penalty.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House voted 395-28 to slap Newt Gingrich with a \$300,000 fine in an unprecedented disciplining of its speaker.

The action taken Tuesday included a reprimand for Gingrich.

Partisanship was undiminished as some Democrats still sought to oust Gingrich from the position to which he was recently re-elected. At one point, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., questioned whether he was "ethically fit" to continue as speaker.

Nebraska's three Republican congressmen all voted for the penalties. Rep. Doug Bereuter presided over debate on the issue, at one time chiding his fellow representatives to "maintain an atmosphere of mutual respect."

There were 196 Republicans, 198 Democrats and 1 Independent who supported the penalty. Twenty-six Republicans and two Democrats were opposed and five members merely voted "present."

Gingrich misses the action

Gingrich was attending meetings

in his office and did not watch the debate, said his spokeswoman, Lauren Maddox. Still unannounced is how Gingrich will pay the \$300,000. Some Republicans said he would risk further political uproar if he used campaign money or established a legal defense fund rather than using his own money.

The \$300,000 penalty imposed on Newt Gingrich emerged from plea bargain negotiations in which the ethics committee's special counsel mentioned a penalty as high as \$800,000, the speaker's lawyer said Tuesday. Attorney J. Randolph Evans said Gingrich was "shocked" even upon hearing the lower figure.

Penalty first in history

A vote to reprimand a member is reserved for "serious violations" of the rules. The financial penalty, never before imposed, was to reimburse the ethics panel for costs associated with expanding the investigation after Gingrich submitted his misleading statements.

When admitting his guilt Dec. 21, Gingrich acknowledged in a written statement that he "brought down on the people's house a controversy which could weaken the faith people have in their government."

Parking meters beheaded in D.C.

Residents take out frustration on least-favorite city revenue device.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Topless parking meters are a common sight here, where vandals pocket the fountain of change resulting from a well-placed sledgehammer blow.

Nearly 2,000 of Washington's 16,000 parking meters are out of business, and it is costing this cash-strapped capital \$3 million a year. There is no money for repairs or replacements.

"We've got to do something," D.C. Council member Harold Brazil said Tuesday. "They need to be staked out. We need to catch a few of these people, get some publicity on the arrests and put 'em in jail."

Parking revenue drops

The vandalism is blamed for a big drop in revenue from the meters - from \$12.5 million in 1995 to \$9.5 million last year.

"We shouldn't lose that kind of revenue, especially when we're hurting so bad," said Brazil, who may seek stiffer penalties for the vandalism, now a misdemeanor.

Besides beheading the meters to get at the quarters inside, some vandals spray-paint meters to prevent enforcers from knowing when the meter has expired. Others jam the devices with slugs, foreign coins or other objects.



MATT HANEW/DN

Reaping the whirlwind?

The city has prided itself on how aggressively it issues parking tickets. Tickets for expired meters and other routine parking infractions pumped more than \$46 million into the city's coffers each year

in 1995 and 1996.

Brazil said some of the vandalism may reflect a backlash against "the greed that has driven the parking-enforcement process."

"People are just fed up."

China earthquake kills seven

Temblor knocks down a prison wall.

BEIJING (AP) — Two powerful earthquakes struck China's remote northwestern province of Xinjiang on Tuesday, killing at least seven people and seriously injuring 10 others, officials said.

A magnitude 6.4 earthquake at 9:47 a.m. and 6.3 quake a minute later were centered in the region of Jiashi, near the market city of Kashgar, said a spokeswoman of the Central Seismology Bureau, who gave her name as Ren.

Houses collapsed, apartment blocks cracked and people in the cities of Artux and Kashgar felt heavy shaking, Ren said.

Seven deaths and "more than 10" serious injuries were reported in three towns near Jiashi inhabited mainly by poor farmers, said an official of the Kashgar earthquake station, who gave her name as Cun.

The temblors knocked down the surrounding wall of the Jiashi police detention center, although inmates remained locked in their cells, said a duty officer at the station who refused to give her name.

At least three aftershocks followed the two large quakes, and some older houses collapsed, she said.

"We don't dare go inside our offices, we're all outside," she said.

The stricken region is a remote desert area 2,000 miles west of Beijing that is prone to earthquakes and was



AP/Alex Sibirny

recently hit by heavy snow.

On March 19, Jiashi County, about 40 miles east of Kashgar, was hit by a magnitude 6.9 earthquake that killed 28 people.

Democrats adopt new campaign rules

WASHINGTON (AP) — Trying to improve its tarnished image, the Democratic National Committee announced Tuesday it would no longer accept money from people or companies with foreign ties and would limit contributions from labor unions and wealthy benefactors.

The party also listed steps it said would prevent unseemly characters from gaining access to the president and vice president through political receptions at the White House and vice presidential residence.

Separately, the Clinton administration announced efforts of its own to conduct more thorough background checks on people invited into the White House.

The actions were part of an effort to move beyond embarrassing disclosures about the Democratic National Committee's fund raising in last year's campaign. The committee's practices are under investigation by the Justice Department and Congress.

The committee has returned nearly \$1.5 million in questionable contributions, some from noncitizens who did not appear to have the financial re-

sources to make such large contributions.

Under the new guidelines, the DNC will close the door on two legal, lucrative sources of campaign dollars: contributions from U.S.-based subsidiaries of foreign contributions and from foreign nationals who have permanent resident status in the United States.

"We do not want to have any taint of influence of foreign people and foreign interests in the United States," Colorado Gov. Roy Romer, the committee's newly-elected general chairman, said in an interview. Clinton hand-picked Romer for the leadership role.

Advocacy groups for legal immigrants have criticized such proposals as discrimination, but Romer said the party decided it would not take money from those who are not eligible to vote. "You have to draw the line somewhere," he said.

Also, the party will cap at \$100,000 the amount it will accept annually from any contributor. Federal law strictly limits contributions to candidates but allows corporations, labor unions and wealthy individuals

to make giant, unregulated contributions to the national parties.

This "soft money" has become a critical resource for both parties. They cannot give it directly to candidates but use it for critical direct mail, get-out-the-vote and advertising efforts, as well as to pay for day-to-day party operations.

Daily Nebraskan

FAX NUMBER: 472-1761

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by calling 472-2588. The public has access to the Publications Board.

Subscription price is \$55 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, Neb.

ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1997 DAILY NEBRASKAN

CPA REVIEW

How Fast Can You Pass?

- ★ All Star CPA Faculty
- ★ Custom Curriculum
- ★ The Best of the Dauberman/Chaykin CPA Review
- ★ Scheduled Classes & Home Study Tools
- ★ Free CPA Tutoring Hotline

KAPLAN

1-800-CPA-2DAY

www.kaplan.com • cpa@kaplan.com

A wholly-owned subsidiary of The Washington Post Company • 185 Centers Nationwide

Dick Blick Art Materials

Second Semester Sale!

Through Jan. 31, 1997

Dick Blick Artist's Acrylics All Colors! 2-oz tubes.

SAVE 20%!

All Brushes 20% OFF!

- Remember
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Ruler
- T-Square
- Markers
- Triangle
- Scissors
- and More

Art Portfolios

Simulated leather finish, plastic handles. Made to look like new for years!

Size	Regular	Sale
20" x 26"	\$20.60	\$16.00
23" x 35"	23.20	18.00

4550 "O" Street • Lincoln
474-2062

Bring in your Class List for a 10% Student Discount through 1-31-97!